

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently amended) A write once read many magnetic tape system, said system comprising:

a tape cartridge comprising a length of magnetic tape adapted to record and store electronic data using a characteristic differing from standard type tapes, and an electronic memory device; and

a tape drive adapted to read and write said tape, said tape drive that receives said tape cartridge and reads said memory device, wherein said drive is operable only in a write once read many mode in response to information read from said memory device.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said drive ejects said cartridge in response to said drive being unable to recognize said information from said memory device.

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3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said tape cartridge only functions in a tape drive capable of recognizing said information read from said memory device to place said drive in said write once read many mode.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said information read from said memory device is a tape cartridge type.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein said tape cartridge type is contained on a manufacturer's information data page of said memory device.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said electronic memory device, at least in part, comprises nonvolatile electronic memory.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of said memory device is read only.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said memory device is an electronically erasable programmable read only memory chip.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 1 wherein said tape cartridge further comprises~~ A write once read many magnetic tape system, said system comprising:

a tape cartridge comprising a length of magnetic tape adapted to record and store electronic data, and an electronic memory device;

a tape drive that receives said tape cartridge and reads said memory device, wherein said drive is operable only in a write once read many mode in response to information read from said memory device; and

a tape destruction mechanism, operable in response to opening of said tape cartridge, to render said tape unusable.

10. (Currently amended) A write once read many magnetic tape with cartridge memory, said tape comprising:

a cartridge;

a length of magnetic tape medium is capable of storing electronic data using a characteristic differing from standard type tape media, said magnetic tape medium being operably housed in said cartridge; and

a memory device is disposed within said cartridge, said memory device is capable of being read by selected tape drives adapted to read from and write to said tape medium, said memory device identifying said tape as a write once read many tape type.

11. (Original) The tape of claim 10 wherein said tape cartridge is ejected in response to a drive failing to recognize said write once read many tape type.

12. (Original) The tape of claim 10 wherein said tape only functions in a tape drive capable of placing said drive in a write once read many mode in response to said write once read many tape type identification.

13. (Original) The tape of claim 10 wherein said memory device, at least in part, comprises nonvolatile memory.

14. (Original) The tape of claim 10 wherein said write once read many tape type is contained on a manufacturer's information data page of said memory device.

15. (Original) The tape of claim 10 wherein at least a portion of said memory device is read only.

16. (Original) The tape of claim 10 wherein said memory device is an electronically erasable programmable read only memory chip.

17! (Currently amended) ~~The tape of claim 9 wherein said tape cartridge further comprises~~ A write once read many magnetic tape with cartridge memory, said tape comprising:

a cartridge;

a length of magnetic tape medium is capable of storing electronic data, said magnetic tape medium being operably housed in said cartridge;

a memory device is disposed within said cartridge, said memory device is capable of being read by selected tape drives, said memory device identifying said tape as a write once read many tape type; and

at least one mechanism operable in response to opening said tape cartridge to render said tape unusable.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method to convert a magnetic tape drive to a write once read many tape drive, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a magnetic tape cartridge comprising a memory device, said memory device identifying said tape cartridge as a write once read many type tape cartridge, said magnetic tape cartridge further comprising a length of magnetic tape medium capable of storing electronic data using a characteristic differing from standard type tape media;

receiving said tape cartridge in said magnetic tape drive;

reading, with said magnetic tape drive, said write once read many tape type from said memory device; and

initializing said tape drive, in response to said read tape type, in a write once read many mode.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 comprising the step of:
write protecting data written on a tape in said tape cartridge.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said initializing step further comprises the step of:

limiting functions that said tape drive may perform, while said tape is in said drive, to tape transport, tape reading and writing to blank portions of a tape in said tape cartridge.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of:
enabling said tape cartridge to only function in a tape drive capable of recognizing said tape cartridge as a write once read many type tape cartridge.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of:
ejecting said tape cartridge from said tape drive in response to said tape drive being
unable to read said write once read many tape type.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said tape type is contained on a
manufacturer's information data page of said memory device.

25. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said memory device, at least in part,
comprises nonvolatile memory.

26. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein at least a portion of said memory
device is read only.

27. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said memory device is an
electronically erasable programmable read only memory chip.

28. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein said characteristic is a write density of said
tape.

29. (New) The tape of claim 10 wherein said characteristic is a write density of said
tape medium.

30. (New) The tape of claim 17 wherein said at least one mechanism comprises
welded seams joining said cartridge.

31. (New) The tape of claim 17 wherein said at least one mechanism comprises
glued seams joining said cartridge.

32. (New) The tape of claim 17 wherein said at least one mechanism comprises snap
fitted joining of said cartridge.

33. (New) The tape of claim 17 wherein said at least one mechanism comprises a
spring-loaded tape destruction mechanism.

34. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein said characteristic is a write density of
said tape medium.

35. (New) A write once read many magnetic tape drive comprising:
means for receiving a tape cartridge having a length of magnetic tape adapted to record and store electronic data using a characteristic differing from standard tapes of a same format, and having an electronic memory device; and
means for reading data from said tape and writing data to said tape using said characteristic differing from standard tapes of a same format;
means for reading said memory device; and
means for initializing said drive in a write once read many mode in response to information read from said memory device.

36. (New) The drive of claim 35 further comprising means for initializing said drive in a standard read/write mode.

ad 37. (New) The drive of claim 35 wherein said characteristic is a write density of said tape.

38. (New) The drive of claim 35 further comprising means for ejecting said cartridge in response to said drive being unable to recognize said information from said memory device.

39. (New) The drive of claim 35 wherein said tape cartridge only functions in a tape drive capable of recognizing said information read from said memory device to place said drive in said write once read many mode.

40. (New) The drive of claim 35 wherein said tape cartridge only functions in a tape drive capable of reading data from, and writing data to, a tape having said characteristic.

41. (New) The drive of claim 40 wherein said characteristic is a write density of said tape.

42. (New) A write once read many magnetic tape cartridge memory device comprising:

means for designating, to a tape drive receiving a tape cartridge housing said device, between a write once and read many type for said tape cartridge and a standard type for said tape cartridge; and

means for identifying a characteristic of a tape medium operatively housed in said tape cartridge differing from standard tape media of a same format

43. (New) The system of claim 42 wherein said type is contained on a manufacturer's information data page of said memory device.

44. (New) The system of claim 42 wherein said memory device, at least in part, comprises nonvolatile electronic memory.

45. (New) The system of claim 42 wherein at least a portion of said memory device is read only.

46. (New) The system of claim 42 wherein said memory device is an electronically erasable programmable read only memory chip.

47. (New) The drive of claim 42 wherein said characteristic is a write density of said tape medium.

48. (New) A method comprising:
loading a tape cartridge having cartridge memory (CM) into a tape drive;
reading cartridge type information on the CM of the tape cartridge;
determining, based on the cartridge type information, whether the tape cartridge is one of a read/write cartridge and a write-once-read-many (WORM) cartridge;
in response to a determination that the tape cartridge is a read/write cartridge, enabling the tape drive to perform overwriting and erasing of data on the read/write cartridge;
and

in response to a determination that the tape cartridge is a WORM cartridge, enabling the tape drive to perform write protection of data on the WORM cartridge.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein enabling the tape drive to perform write protection of data on the WORM cartridge further comprises enabling the tape drive to read data from the WORM cartridge and write data to blank portions of the WORM cartridge.

50. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein enabling the tape drive to perform write protection of data on the WORM cartridge further comprises preventing the tape drive from erasing, overwriting, and reformatting data on the WORM cartridge.